

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122482
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY/INR/RSE:DGRAVES:ACH
APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE
EUR/P - MR. SEIDNER
INR/RSE - MR. COOK
S/PRS - MR. TRATTNOR
S/S-0: A. OTTO

-----270325Z 071336 /62

R 270020Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122482

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, UR, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT AND ALLEGED LIMITATION
ON EMBASSY CONTACT WITH SOVIET DISSIDENTS

1. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH ALL DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED
IN SOVIET AFFAIRS OR CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DISSIDENT ISSUES IN THE SOVIET UNION AND HAVE FOUND ONLY
ONE WHO ADMITS TO SPEAKING WITH WALLACE WHILE HE WAS IN
THE U.S. FORMER EMBOFF DON GRAVES, NOW IN INR/RSE, SAW
WALLACE ON MAY 3 AND IN CONTEXT OF NEED TO MAINTAIN EMBASSY
CONTACTS AT A TIME THAT EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE UNDER ATTACK
IN THE SOVIET PRESS, TOLD HIM "OFF-THE-RECORD" THAT CURRENT
EMBASSY PRACTICE DISCOURAGES VISITS BY EMBASSY STAFF TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 122482

APARTMENTS OF DISSIDENTS BUT THAT MEETINGS IN OWN APART-
MENTS OR OTHER VENUES ARE POSSIBLE. GRAVES BELIEVES, AND
WE CONCUR, THAT WALLACE'S ASSERTIONS TO THE CONTRARY
EITHER ARE DELIBERATE OVERSTATEMENTS DESIGNED TO ELICIT
REACTIONS OR ARE BASED ON MISINFORMATION OBTAINED FROM
OTHERS IN WASHINGTON OR MOSCOW.

2. SHOULD WALLACE PUBLISH HIS STORY, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WOULD TAKE THE LINE THAT THERE IS NO TRUTH TO CLAIMS THAT AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO IDEA OF EMBOFF CONTACTS WITH DISSIDENTS OR THAT EMBASSY HAS RESTRICTED

CONTACTS WITH THE DISSIDENTS UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION. SPOKESMAN WOULD CITE EMBASSY PROTESTS OF SOVIET EFFORTS TO PREVENT DISSIDENTS FROM ENTERING EMBASSY OR EMBOFFS' APARTMENTS AND POINT OUT THAT WE CONTINUE TO ASSERT OUR RIGHT TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF SOVIET SOCIETY, AS SOVIET EMBASSY HERE MAINTAINS CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN US SOCIETY. WE WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH DISSIDENTS ARE SENSITIVE AND NOTE THAT AMBASSADOR MONITORS SUCH CONTACTS CLOSELY TO BE SURE PROPER JUDGEMENT IS USED. WE WOULD REFER QUESTIONS ON SPECIFICS TO EMBASSY, NOTING THAT DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED NO PARTICULAR INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. IF EMBASSY HAS ANY OBJECTIONS TO GUIDANCE ALONG THESE LINES, PLEASE ADVISE

3. REGRET THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED HERE WITH WALLACE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION.

4. AMBASSADOR TOON CONCURS.

5. GRAVES AND WE REGRET THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED WITH WALLACE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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